





11 DAY KILIMANJARO CLIMB – NORTHERN ROUTE

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Trip Duration: 11 days
Trip Difficulty: 
Destination: Tanzania
Begins in: Moshi
Activities: 

INCLUDED

- 2 nights hotel before/after climb
- Ground transportation
- National Park permits, camping/hut fees, rescue fees & Value Added Tax (VAT)
- Expert guide, assistant guides, cook & porters
- Bottled oxygen
- Private toilet
- Four season, 3 person double occupancy tent
- 1.5" sleeping pad
- All meals on the mountain
- Breakfast at hotel

EXCLUDED

- Airfare
- Lunch/dinner at hotel
- Beverages at hotel
- Personal gear & equipment
- Tips



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Itinerary

DAY 1 Londorossi Gate to Mti Mkubwa

Elevation: 7,742 ft to 9,498 ft

Distance: 6 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Rain Forest

We depart Moshi for Londorossi Gate, which takes about 4 hours, where you will complete entry formalities. Then drive to the Lemosho trailhead. Upon arrival at trailhead, we begin hiking through undisturbed forest which winds to the first camp site.

DAY 2 Mti Mkubwa to Shira 1 Camp

Elevation: 9,498 ft to 11,500 ft

Distance: 8 km

Hiking Time 5-6 hours

Habitat: Heath

We continue on the trail leading out of the rain forest and into a savannah of tall grasses, heather and volcanic rock draped with lichen beards. As we ascend through the lush rolling hills and cross several streams, we reach the Shira Ridge before dropping gently down to Shira 1 Camp. Here we catch our first glimpse of Kibo across the plateau.

DAY 3 Shira 1 Camp to Shira 2 Camp

Elevation: 11,500 ft to 12,500 ft

Distance: 7 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Heath

We explore the Shira Plateau. It is a gentle walk east on moorland meadows towards Shira 2 Camp. The heath zone displays abundant wildflowers and unique Senecio trees.

DAY 4 Shira 2 Camp to Lava Tower

Elevation: 12,500 ft to 15,190 ft

Distance: 7 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Alpine Desert

Lava Tower to Moir Hut

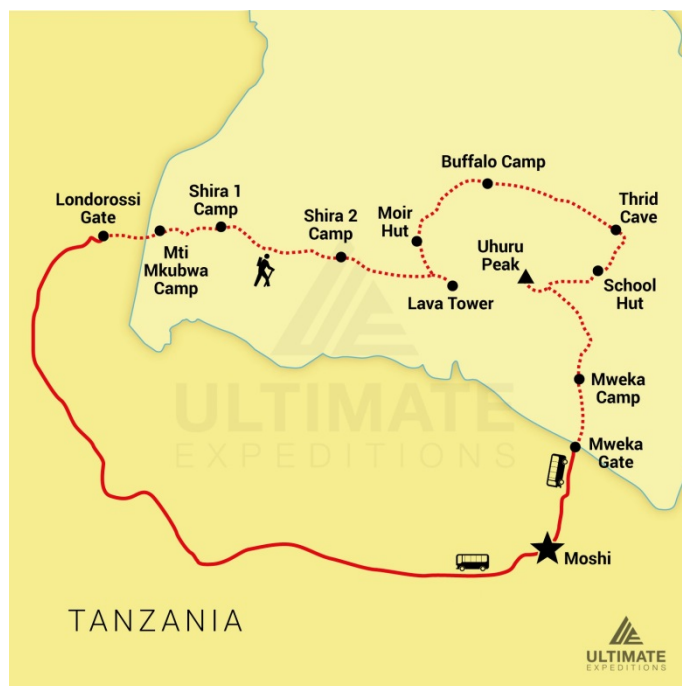
Elevation: 15,190 ft to 13,580 ft

Distance: 7 km

Hiking Time: 2-3 hours

Habitat: Alpine Desert

We continue to the east up a ridge and then head southeast towards the Lava Tower – a 300 ft tall volcanic rock formation. Then we divert from the main trail to Moir Hut, a little used site on the base of Lent Hills. A variety of walks are available on Lent Hills making this an excellent acclimatization opportunity. Shira Plateau is one of the highest plateaus on earth.



DAY 5 Moir Hut to Buffalo Camp

Elevation: 13,580 ft to 13,200 ft

Distance: 12 km

Hiking Time: 5-7 hours

Habitat: Alpine Desert

We trek out of Moir Valley with a moderately steep climb, then hike to the summit of Lent Hills before returning to the main trail. The path crosses a rock field and gently undulates before reaching Buffalo Camp. This section of the trail offers great views across the plains that lie north of Kilimanjaro and stretch out to the Kenyan/Tanzanian border.

DAY 6 Buffalo Camp to Third Cave

Elevation: 13,200 ft to 12,700 ft

Distance: 8 km

Hiking Time: 5-7 hours

Habitat: Heath

As we head up Buffalo Ridge, the terrain becomes increasingly sparse. This route is rarely travelled and we will enjoy its mountain wilderness feel. We trek through remote valleys on to the northern slopes of Kilimanjaro until we arrive at Third Cave.

DAY 7 Third Cave to School Hut

Elevation: 12,700 ft to 15,600 ft

Distance: 5 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Habitat: Alpine Desert

We climb steadily up and over the "Saddle," which sits between Kibo and Mawenzi. We continue on to our camp, School Hut. Once here we rest, enjoy an early dinner to prepare for the summit day.

DAY 8 School Hut to Uhuru Peak

Elevation: 15,600 ft to 19,341 ft

Distance: 6 km

Hiking Time: 6-8 hours

Habitat: Arctic

Uhuru Peak to Mweka Camp

Elevation: 19,341 ft to 10,065 ft

Distance: 12 km

Hiking Time: 4-6 hours

Habitat: Arctic

Very early in the morning (around midnight), we begin our push to the summit. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. The wind and cold at this elevation and time of day can be extreme. We ascend in the darkness for several hours while taking frequent, but short, breaks. At Gilman's point (18,600 ft), you will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see coming over Mawenzi Peak. Finally, we arrive at Uhuru Peak- the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa.

From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. The trail is very rocky and can be quite hard on the knees; trekking poles are helpful. Mweka Camp is situated in the upper forest and mist or rain can be expected in the late afternoon. Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

DAY 9 Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

Elevation: 10,065 ft to 5,380 ft

Distance: 10 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Rain Forest

On our last day, we continue the descent to Mweka Gate and collect the summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. From the gate, we continue another hour to Mweka Village. A vehicle will meet us at Mweka Village to drive us back to the hotel in Moshi.

TANZANIA

Best Time to Visit

Tanzania enjoys a temperate climate and is a year-round destination. However, temperatures on the rim of Ngorongoro Crater and Mount Kilimanjaro drop dramatically at night, particularly June - August. If you are planning to climb Kilimanjaro, it is best during the warm dry months of January and February. April and May tend to be the wettest months, June and July are the coolest, and August and September are the driest. The best time for safari is from May – October, however, December to February the wildebeest gather in the Serengeti region and the great migration begins to move north.

Temperature

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average High (F)	92	92	90	85	79	78
Average Low (F)	64	64	66	67	65	62

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (F)	78	80	83	88	89	90
Average Low (F)	60	60	60	62	64	64

Entry Requirements

All visitors must obtain a visa, except nationals of the East African Community, Hong Kong, Macao, Rwanda, Romania and Commonwealth countries (**excluding** Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Africa and United Kingdom). You also need a valid passport with at least six months prior to expiration, an onward or return ticket and proof of sufficient funds to support yourself while in the country. It is recommended that US citizens obtain their visas upon arrival, at Kilimanjaro International Airport.

Vaccinations

Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG), Hepatitis B, and Typhoid are recommended for all travelers. Tetanus-diphtheria and measles as needed boosters. Rabies - pre-exposure vaccination if you will have extended unprotected outdoor exposure.

Yellow fever is not recommended for most travelers. The government requires proof of yellow fever vaccination upon arrival if you are traveling from a country with risk of yellow fever ([Countries with risk of yellow fever virus.](#))

Talk to your health-care provider about how to prevent malaria while traveling. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria.



Travel Advisories

Make two photocopies of valuables such as your passport, tickets, visas and travelers' cheques. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and leave another copy with someone at home.

Be sure to inform your credit card company as well as your bank you will travel internationally into Africa. This will eliminate any credit card holds for fraudulent activity.

Currency

Carrying cash, an ATM or credit card that can be used for cash advances in case of emergency is advisable. The best places to exchange money are at bureau de change, which are fast, have longer hours and often give slightly better rates than banks. Local currency is Tanzania Shillings (TSh), however national parks entry fees must be paid in US dollars by non-residents. Better hotels, lodges, and camps will accept credit cards; however it is advised to withdraw cash when visiting remote areas and villages. Note that US dollars older than 2001 will not be accepted by most places in East Africa. Traveler's Checks have become nearly impossible to cash in most all banks in Tanzania. Only hotels will accept checks from their guests, but at a far lesser rate than hard currency.

Government

The government framework of Tanzania is that of a unitary presidential democratic republic, whereby the President of Tanzania is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system.

Religion

30% of Mainland Tanzania's population is Christian, 35% Muslim and 35% indigenous; Zanzibar is 99% Muslim.